

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
SUBMITTED BY HERAN SEREKE-BRHAN, PhD
MAY 16, 2022

* Agency Development*Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access*Improved Grantmaking* Community Engagement*CAH Beyond Grants*

The following is a summary of the agency's activities and operations:

Grants and Public Art

Applications for the following FY23 programs opened May 2, 2022:

- Art Bank, closes June 24
- Art Exhibition (Curatorial) Grant, closes July 8
- Arts or Humanities Education Projects, closes June 3
- Field Trip Experiences, closes June 10
- Projects, Events, or Festivals, closes June 10

Applications are still open for the following programs:

- FY22 Cooper-Gordon Public Art Project, closes May 23
- FY22 MuralsDC, May 26
- FY23 Marion Barry, Jr. Legacy Public Art Project, closes May 27
- FY23 Public Art Building Communities, closes July 15

Applications for FY22 Relief and Recovery Grants for new Individuals and Organizations open May 16, close June 6.

On May 13, 2022, CAH presented a virtual grants launch informational event on FY23 programs; approximately 175 were in attendance.

On May 12, 2022, CAH hosted the opening of the *Fragile Beauty* exhibition. *Fragile Beauty* presents 33 DC artists presenting works tackling the theme of environmental justice. This is CAH's first juried exhibition initiated under the new Juried Exhibition Grant program.

FY 2023 Budget Process

In its Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Report, the Committee of the Whole recommended adoption of the FY23 budget of \$45,202,000 for CAH as proposed by the Mayor. The Committee also made the following policy recommendations:

1. The Committee recommends the Commission work with stakeholders to communicate the status of implementation of the equity taskforce's recommendations.
2. The Committee encourages the Commission to continue its work to promote diversity in the arts and to implement the recommendations of the Task Force on Equity and Inclusion, including targeted outreach to artists and musicians in marginalized communities for funding and partnership opportunities.

3. The Committee recommends that the Commission work with stakeholders on future revisions to the grant allocation formula to ensure equity and take into account that many larger arts organizations also have an outsized positive impact on arts and artists across the District.
4. The Committee recommends the Commission work with the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability to formalize a recusal policy for Commissioners that may be connected to potential grant awards, and any other relevant policies to ensure there is not an appearance of a conflict of interest.

The FY 2023 Budget Support Act of 2022 (BSA) had its first reading and vote on May 10, 2022, with the second (final) reading and vote to be scheduled in the coming weeks.

Community Engagement

CAH once again partnered with the Mayor's Office on Asian American Pacific Islander Affairs (MOAPIA) to provide underwriting support of the annual Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration event on May 10, 2022 at the historic Lincoln Theatre. Similar partnerships are being finalized with the Mayor's Office on LGBTQ Affairs and the Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs.

CAH, through the Office of Contracting and Procurement, has secured the services of Bayne, LLC, to develop and implement a strategic communications and marketing plan that will promote grant opportunities to new applicants, as well as raise the visibility and awareness of CAH's grantees and the agency's impact. (*Task Force Recommendation*)

CAH has conducted several virtual and in-person public programs on three tracks – Business of the Arts, CAH in the Community and Artists' Showcase. Recent themes include sustainable fashion featuring grantee designers and guest speakers. Over 500 participants have attended virtual programs since they began in January, 2022.

Agency Development: Welcoming New Staff

CAH welcomes Alexandre Jamon, Jeanne Hissle, Krystle Seit, and Marcia Howard as Grants Management Specialists, and JR Russ as Public Affairs Specialist.

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